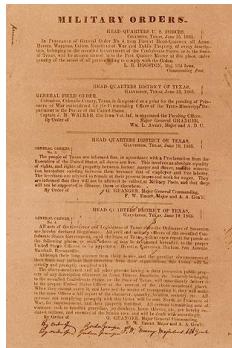




## “Juneteeth: A Celebration of Freedom”



On June 19, 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and read the following:

"In accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."

This came two years after President Abraham Lincoln freed the enslaved population in the Confederate States. This moment in

history marked the beginning of the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. "Juneteenth," which is a blend on June and nineteen, is also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Celebration Day or the Black Fourth of July.

In 1980 the State of Texas declared June 19<sup>th</sup> a holiday; subsequently, Juneteenth has been declared a holiday in all of the states, except four. We are proud that New Jersey is counted as one of these states. From its inception until today communities have celebrated Juneteenth with church outings, picnics, speeches and other outpouring of remembrances. As one writer penned:

*"Juneteenth is a day of reflection, a day of renewal, a pride-filled day. It is a moment in time taken to appreciate the African American experience. It is inclusive of all races, ethnicities and nationalities - as nothing is more comforting than the hand of a friend."*

The Cherry Hill African American Civic Association and Cherry Hill Township partnered to plan a celebration for June 19, 2020 commemorating Juneteenth. That celebration has been canceled because of the COVID-19. Plans are currently in the works for a Juneteenth 2021 Celebration.

Follow this link to a short video on Juneteenth:

<https://youtu.be/uPXT1mMDghA>

